

# CONNECT

The Magazine for the Friends of NGHS 2021

*Connected for life*



# Where girls learn without limits.



A family of 25 schools, expert in teaching girls to be confident, resilient and fearless.

## CONTENTS

Welcome from the Head	4
School News	6
School Events	9
Thanks to our Staff leavers	11
Atlantic Antics	14
Cards for our Community	18
Alumnae launch Loungewear range	20
Memories of the Duke of Edinburgh	22
Inspiring Alumnae	24
Diana Holmes Legacy	
Patrice Wellesley-Cole	
Helen Watson	
Creating Extraordinary Futures	30
Former Staff Obituaries	32
Alumnae Obituaries	36
Diversity and Inclusion	39
Getting Involved	40

## FEATURE STORIES

### Cover story: Atlantic Antics

We were so proud to follow 2011 leaver, Hannah Walton, and two of her friends as they set out on the Talisker Whisky Atlantic Challenge in December 2020. The trio had their sights set on breaking several records as they rowed their way across the Atlantic Ocean.



### Cards for our Community

Some of the youngest pupils at NGHS were 'making someone else's day' in December by hand writing Christmas cards for alumnae and other members of the NGHS community. We know what an isolating experience Christmas must have been for some during the pandemic, and we wanted to help.

### Loungewear Launch

Two of our 2019 leavers, Adaline Opare Anim and Ekbal Sabil, showed great initiative by going into business together at the same time as carrying out their university studies, and all during the pandemic!

### Duke of Edinburgh Memories

In April we were saddened to hear of the death of His Royal Highness, Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh. Many of our alumnae will remember his visit to the school in 1978.

## WELCOME FROM THE HEAD

When I wrote my welcome message for the last issue of Connect, we had no idea where we would be one year on. And in some respects the same can be said for this issue! The school reopened with all of the COVID-19 safety measures in place. At times we resembled a medical clinic as opposed to a school as testing of all Senior pupils had to take place before they came back, and then continued for a while once they'd returned. Our staff were incredible with volunteers taking on the many and varied roles needed to ensure that testing was a swift and accurate procedure. I extend my gratitude to all of them and have been completely relieved and delighted to report that we have had no serious issues with COVID at the school. Let's hope that this time next year I won't have to mention the pandemic at all as things begin to get back to normal at last.

Of course, the pandemic and restrictions have had an impact on the school year gone by as you'll see; many of our news items will refer to virtual events. Our girls and staff have had to be so resilient adjusting to the ever changing circumstances, and they have not let me down. Applying themselves wholeheartedly to teaching and learning in whatever format has been required at the



time, everybody has done so well. One of the most rewarding things has been the use of our performing arts centre, The Space, for lessons, rehearsals and performances. The girls have loved being back on stage again. It's given them a real boost. Yet again, GCSEs and A Levels have been thrown into disarray and we've had to adapt to TAGs (Teacher Assessed Grades) in order to assess our girls' work. We know it's not ideal but it's what we've had to do and what our girls have had to accept, and I'm so happy and proud to say that it's been a really great year with fantastic results across both A Level and GCSE. Despite the lack of formal exams, our girls really have been tested through some tough assessments and coursework and their excellent

grades really do reflect how hard they have worked.

As things gradually began to ease around springtime, we dared to open our doors again for tours, visits and open events. We really had missed being able to show off our school in its best light so it was a real joy to welcome prospective families again to some of our events.

It's been another year of mixed news as you will see. Some happy, some inspirational and some sad as we've battled our way through all of the things that have been thrown at us as education providers. Our girls' best interests are always at our heart and we love that so many of them go on to do such inspirational work. We especially love that they keep in touch and keep us informed.

Our current pupils really benefit from seeing and hearing their stories and knowing that so many opportunities are out there for the taking.

I hope that the school alumnae community is keeping well amid the chaos, and I thank you all for your continued support. I really hope that one day soon I'll actually be able to meet some of you in person when we can begin to hold reunion events here at school again.

Mrs Julie Keller  
Head



Sixth Formers celebrate their amazing TAG A Level results with 46% A\* grades, 77% A\* to A, 95% A\* to B and 100% A\* to C. Well done girls.

95% of Sixth formers enrolled for university in 2021 with 23% entering into Medical Sciences and 6% going to Oxford or Cambridge.



Our Year 11 girls also achieved some fabulous TAG GCSEs with an amazing 43% awarded Grade 9, 69% Grade 9 to 8, 90% Grade 9 to 7 and an overall 100% pass rate. We are very proud of you all.

# SCHOOL NEWS

## Christmas Charities

Christmas had to be a virtual affair again this year because of the restrictions in place, but that didn't make it any less special. With the use of clever technology we were able to put on an enchanting Nativity performed by girls in Year 1 at the Infant and Junior School. This was broadcast on the Salvation Army social media channels and raised over £700 in online donations. Even more money was raised for the charity [PASIC](#) through virtual busking and other musical concerts. The highlight of the season had to be a visit from Santa and the Band of the Salvation Army playing out the Infant and Junior girls on the last day of term. Truly magical.



## Interactive Storytelling

Being part of the GDST family comes with many benefits as you will know, and one of these came in the shape of its collaboration



with The Globe Theatre enabling us to bring Shakespeare to our Infant and Junior School through an interactive storytelling event entitled 'A Shakespearean Spring' at the Globe. Kicking off with The Winter's Tale, girls in Years 2, 3 and 4 from across the family of GDST schools joined together, some in school, others from home, to hear Scott Brooksbank deliver the tale online. There were props, there was magic and there was a lot of fun during this interactive session with follow-on activities the girls could do after the event. It was such a brilliant way to familiarise the girls with Shakespeare's works and they really enjoyed all of the stories in the series.

## Reach Out Resource Room

Here at Nottingham Girls' High School we have a lot to offer, and not just to our own school

community. Our community partnership and outreach programme Reach Out has been going strong for the past seven years, delivering hundreds of projects to thousands of KS2 children from local schools. These have involved some amazing creative and educational activities from outdoor learning to business and enterprise, all designed to encourage a love of learning and achievement, which in turn results in raised levels of attainment. This year of course, the provision had to go online as we were not able to welcome visiting children to the school. The team behind Reach Out showed great initiative and creativity and came up with the Reach Out Resource Room which is a totally interactive experience and has been very well received with lots of families signing up to make use of this brilliant facility.



## GDST Gets Active

At the start of February, the GDST launched its Get Active campaign inviting all of the GDST schools to take part in a fitness initiative for the month and clock up as many km as possible in a bid to be crowned the most active of all of the schools. We invited our girls, staff, alumnae and parent community to take part and submit their km towards a school total. Well, the NGHS community walked and ran and cycled (through floodwater in some cases) and rowed us into 8th place out of all of the 25 GDST schools, which we think is pretty good going. Thanks to everybody who took part and who sent us their photos of some of the lovely places they had been exercising.



## Outdoor Classrooms

This year's Outdoor Classroom Day fell during Mental Health Awareness Week in May and the theme was Connect with Nature which couldn't have been more appropriate. We are all very aware of the benefits of being outdoors in nature, not only for our physical health but also our mental wellbeing. It's perhaps never been more important to spend time outdoors as it has been during the pandemic. Fresh air and open spaces have been positively encouraged and embraced, and our girls couldn't wait to get back out there when school re-opened. Whether it's climbing, camping or planting, Upnah Wood is a brilliant resource - we're lucky to have it and the girls love it.



## Drama and Poetry Workshops

We like to keep our lessons vibrant and interesting by bringing in external visitors now that we are able to do so again. In May, our Year 7 and 8 girls had a really fun and educational experience in The Squire Performing Arts Centre as part of their English lessons. We invited two guest theatre professionals: director and writer, Giles Croft and Musical Theatre producer and songwriter, Matt Bugg, to work with them. The sessions involved working with a specific piece of poetry. The poem 'Blessing', by Imitaz Dharker, had been selected for the girls to work on in their English lessons in preparation for the day. Giles and Matt then took some of the themes in the poem as a starting point for some workshops on storytelling and song writing. It was a great day which the girls found hugely rewarding and beneficial.





## Empathy Between Generations

Our Year 4 girls were learning about Jewish children who either escaped to Britain with their parents before the outbreak of World War II, or who sought and found refuge here as part of the Kindertransport scheme. As part this project they wrote to Holocaust survivor, Ruth Rogoff, via [The Holocaust Exhibition and Learning Centre](#) after hearing her story. Here are some of their messages to her:

*'I am very proud of my country because it is often seen as a safe place for refugees'* - Zara, 4E

*'I think that it is very important for refugees to share their stories, so that we can understand what really happened in the past'* - Eva, 4E



*'I thank you from the bottom of my heart for telling us your life story, so that we can learn never to be intolerant and bully people who are different'* - Alba, 4C

Ruth was touched by their maturity and empathy and the girls were delighted to receive her wonderful reply:

*'I can't tell you how moved I am with the empathy these children have shown... I am also very impressed with the way they write and their command of language at what is a very early age... (You) have every reason to be proud of England and the generous and kind country it is to all who find sanctuary within its boundaries... Not only are you - my darling girls - caring and clever, you are also beautiful. I shall treasure this photo and look forward to meeting you all. Life has been*

Ruth Rogoff, Israel

## SCHOOL EVENTS

### Careers Events

Alumnae from across the GDST network are a valuable source of information and expertise when it comes to equipping our current girls with advice about careers. We're always particularly delighted to welcome back NGHS alumnae to speak to our girls and were thrilled that recent leavers, Adaline Opare Anim and Ekbal Sabil, were able to take part in our Year 9 Business Enterprise Day in May. The success of their small loungewear business [REIGNSZN](#) made them the perfect role models for any of our younger girls who may be considering a marketing career path. During the Business Enterprise Day, the Year 9 girls worked in groups to create a promotional video for the loungewear collection, guided by Adaline and Ekbal themselves.



They also listened to talks from Karen Kimura at the GDST and Claire Bale, the Marketing Director at NGHS, about the

importance of creativity and marketing. This activity was a great test of their transferable skills such as teamwork, leadership and communication as well as their creativity and business sense. Everybody was really impressed with the resulting videos which were all of a very high standard and the winning teams received a £5 Asos voucher.

We also held a Year 10 Careers at Speed event at which a mixture of NGHS alumnae, parents and employees came to talk about their many and varied careers including:

- Cancer Researcher
- Dentist
- Company Director (Hospitality)
- Director & Chartered Accountant
- Director of Marketing
- Geospatial Technician Apprentice
- Project Manager & Architect
- Registrar in Clinical Immunology
- Solicitor

and we have an endless supply of expertise in our alumnae community. If you feel that this may be something you'd like to be involved in then please do get in touch with us at [friendsofNGHS@not.gdst.net](mailto:friendsofNGHS@not.gdst.net).

### NGHS Productions

We were absolutely delighted to be able to put on some of our school productions this year albeit in front of a restricted audience. Our on site theatre, The Squire Performing Arts Centre, was finally permitted to open its doors and admit limited numbers of parents to see some of our shows. For the girls and staff, it was hard work but a total joy to get back onto the stage. We're still disappointed that we were not able to perform our last Senior School musical Beauty and the Beast to a live audience, but we made up for it this year with a stunning performance of Les Misérables which was truly incredible. We were especially thrilled to welcome NGHS



alumna, Dame Rosemary Squire OBE, to the opening night at the theatre which bears her name. The level of talent was amazing - the acting and singing were of such a high standard that our parent community likened it to a professional production. We're always so proud of how brilliant our girls are in the performing arts.

The Infant and Junior School treated us to a hilarious Year 4 production of Star Warts - a comical musical containing every pun imaginable about a huge array of sci-fi films and TV shows over the years. The girls energetically sang and danced their way through a host of fun numbers and jokes which their parents probably appreciated more than they did!

The Year 6 production this year went down more of a classical route with Oliver. There were some absolutely outstanding performances in this show with some memorable singing and acting from such a young cast. We look forward to welcoming these girls into the Senior School and seeing them progress in the productions there.



## THANKS TO OUR STAFF LEAVERS

We had a little flurry of staff leavers during the year, some retiring and some just moving on, and we'd like to thank them all for their dedication and commitment to the school during their time here.

Mrs Kate Lake joined the Drama Department in 2013 and was a force to be reckoned with during her seven years here. You only need to have seen the school productions to realise what a great Drama teacher Mrs Lake was. The girls had huge respect for her and her commanding stage presence, and they will never forget the incredible Drama trips she arranged to the USA. The staff too will always remember the wonderful theatre excursions Mrs Lake arranged to London. Thank you Mrs Lake, and enjoy your retirement.

Mrs Fran Hansford, our Head of Careers, was also with us for seven years before leaving at Christmas. We will miss her expert advice and guidance, particularly the Sixth Form girls as she has steered them through UCAS applications and mock interviews in preparation for their future success beyond school. Thank you Mrs Hansford for helping so many of our girls find their way to their future dreams. Best wishes for the future.



Mrs Jo Lowden taught at NGHS for no fewer than 34 years in the English Department before retiring at Christmas. Mrs Lowden inspired so many girls with her passion for, and dedication to, English Literature, with a particular love of Shakespeare. She has been a hugely popular, much loved and respected member of staff, and a friend to everybody. Always calm and collected, we will miss her.



commitment to her subject and her gentle presence around the school. Have a very happy retirement Mrs Lowden.

Mr Sam Cooper left our Infant and Junior School at the end of the summer term after six years at NGHS, to take up an exciting position in an international school in Malaysia. He has been an inspirational class teacher and has taught both Year 5 and 6 girls who have loved his fun and energy. Mr Cooper has also been pivotal in developing our sport offer during his time here, including coaching



the current Year 10 football team since their first game in Year 5 through to becoming City and County Champions on numerous occasions. They also played at the ISFA National School Finals at St George's Park in 2018 and 2019 which is a fantastic achievement and great experience for them. We wish him all the very best in his new post.

Ms Cate Harvey had been the Head of Special Educational Needs at the school for eight years during which she provided help and support to those girls who needed it most. Cate not only played an invaluable role but will also be remembered for her friendliness, her positivity and her sense of style. We wish her all the best in her exciting new venture as a yoga instructor in beautiful Cornwall.



Miss Lauren Burns brought a dynamism to Psychology as Head of Department. Her lessons were both fascinating and creative and the girls really enjoyed the subject and excelled under her leadership of it. Miss Burns left NGHS to return to the classroom herself, or rather the lecture theatre as she heads to London to undertake a Masters Degree. Good luck Miss Burns. We're sure you'll be as amazing a student as you have been a teacher.

Mrs Olivia Dixon taught English at the school as well as playing a huge part in the delivery of the Positive Schools Project, looking after the mental wellbeing of



Mrs Laura Morley worked tirelessly behind the scenes as a Biology Technician ensuring that everything ran smoothly and lessons were well equipped, as well as taking care of the plants and animals in the laboratory. Thank you for all of your hard work Mrs Morley. Best wishes for the future.

the girls and also the staff. Mrs Dixon was a popular and friendly member of staff and will be missed by all who knew her as she moves away from Nottingham.

Miss Natalie Davis taught RS at the school from 2013 during which time she nurtured a huge interest in the subject and also organised some incredible trips, including a memorable excursion to India. This was a wonderful opportunity for the girls and one they will never forget as they immersed themselves in a whole new country and culture. We congratulate Miss Davis as she takes up a post as Head of Department at another school.



Miss Handford hasn't left us yet but will be doing so at Christmas as she takes up the Headship at Kent College Pembury in January 2022. This is a very well-deserved appointment for Katrina who is such a highly valued member of staff here at NGHS and did such an admirable job as Acting Head during the most challenging of times. Her calm organisational leadership skills steered the school through the lockdown periods and ensured that remote learning was the incredible success that it was.

Katrina has been Deputy Head here for five years as well as teaching History when she first arrived. We will miss her terribly of course, but this is such a great move for her and we wish her all the very best for the future.



## Ruby turns 80!

We just thought we'd include some lovely news in this edition too as many of you may remember Ruby Barrett from our Estates Department. Ruby has worked at the school for no fewer than 49 years helping keep everything clean and tidy, and is still going strong. We couldn't let her 80th birthday slip by without a little celebration and of course, some cake. Congratulations Ruby and thanks for all that you do for us.



## ATLANTIC ANTICS

by Hannah Walton, Alumna 2011

On the 12th December 2020, myself and two friends set off to row 3,000 miles across the Atlantic Ocean from La Gomera to Antigua. We became the youngest female trio to row across any ocean and raised just under £16,000 for Women in Sport and RTHM. It took us 52 days on an 8x2m boat - a slightly different isolation to the one being experienced back home!



Many people say that getting to the start line is one of the hardest parts of an ocean row. Our campaign started 18 months beforehand and involved six days of sea school courses, 150 hours training on the water, six gym sessions a week for a year and over 20,000 WhatsApp messages. Covid provided a lot of uncertainty, like it has for everyone over the last year, and so we were unbelievably grateful to have made it to La Gomera ready and raring to go.

The crossing itself was one of the most surreal experiences I think any of us have ever had. The first three days were such a blur – we rowed for about 20 hours a day each with the aim of getting away from land as quickly as possible. Luckily, we only experienced seasickness for the first 24 hours, but the sleep deprivation hit us hard. We each kept thinking there was a fourth rower on board, we forgot each other's names and we'd occasionally think that

Voldemort was swooping across the ocean... that's what you get when you listen solely to Harry Potter audio books. By day 10 we had settled in and became comfortable in our routine of 80 minutes rowing, 40 minutes rest.



By Christmas (Day 12) it was becoming apparent that we were having quite a 'weird' year for weather and conditions. The wind and waves were coming from opposite directions and on Christmas Day the wind was completely against us making it impossible to make any progress. This meant we had to deploy the para-anchor for a few hours to hold us in place. For the period

between Christmas and New Year we had some of the flattest water I have ever seen. This made the rowing tough and meant there was little to no wind to keep us cool. It was also at this point that our watermaker, which desalinates seawater into drinking water, decided to break. Turns out, trying to fix the issue in a moving boat with your head stuck upside down in a locker is quite the feat. It took a few hours over several days, and lots of satellite phone calls back to land, but we learnt persistence is key and at some point, the problem will be solved.

*"We were starting to look forward to the finish line - to dry clothes, a nice bed and a cold beer."*

By day 30 we were halfway, the conditions were starting to improve, and we were speeding up. We were also starting to get a few larger, splashier waves over the side and stern of the boat. This, coupled with occasional short rain showers, meant that we were constantly that little bit damp. It was at this point that we were starting to look forward to the finish line - to dry clothes, a nice bed and a cold beer. Every tough moment, however, was balanced with many more incredible ones. Jumping in the water to clean the bottom of



the boat every 10 days or so was always a spirit lifter, as was spotting whales, dolphins, and bioluminescence.

The final two weeks of the crossing was a very mixed bag of emotions. Our bums were sore, other teams had finished, we were extremely tired, and we were sick of our freeze-dried meals. However, we were also sad at the prospect of this incredible experience being over and returning to dry land and normal life. Georgie even asked at one point if we could just go for a 'quick spin around Antigua' before we had to get off. Our final 100 miles flew by, we only just had time to wash our hair for the first time in seven weeks. Luckily our families were able to be in Antigua and as we rounded the headland

*"Our bums were sore, other teams had finished, we were extremely tired, and we were sick of our freeze-dried meals."*

into the harbour, they were some of the first people we could see - it was mad to think that we'd left them in La Gomera seven weeks earlier and all we'd done since then was row.

We really did have the most incredible time out there. Before we went, a friend who had done it before said to enjoy the high highs and the low lows because you'll never experience anything quite like them again and we kept this in mind the whole way across. It surprised me just how much we all enjoyed it and I think any of us would jump at the chance to be in the boat again.

A special NGHS thank you because as part of our final night festivities Flo read out messages of support from home and we were all amazed at how many were from either ex or current NGHS students and staff - so thank you for all your support, it really was so appreciated.

If you'd like to see more from the row you can find us on Instagram [@atlanticantics2020](#).



## CHRISTMAS CARDS FOR OUR COMMUNITY

Girls in Year 2 to Year 6 were 'making someone else's day' in December by writing a Christmas card to a member of our NGHS community. We sent cards to our alumnae (over the age of 80), to our donors and members of the Former Staff Association - a total of 149 Christmas cards were posted during the festive period.

Girls at our Nursery, Infant and Junior School follow the 'RECIPE for Success' in everything that they do. That is, applying Resilience, Empathy, Creativity, Initiative, Positivity, and Excellence at all times where possible. In class, girls aged 6 to 11 took part in our Christmas Kindness handwriting competition, with

Some of our Year 6 pupils commented:

*"I feel that writing a card for someone who may be alone for Christmas will fill them with joy as they know someone cares - it's an important time of year to spread goodwill."*

Sumanveer

*"We enjoyed showing acts of kindness in our writing and putting smiles on other people's faces; we wanted to show empathy to those who might need some cheering up at Christmas."*

Nancy

*"Reaching out to our alumnae and school donors has really made me feel like I'm doing something good for someone who may not have seen their family for a very long while; in a time like this it's really important."*

Ruqaiyah

certificates awarded by class teachers to celebrate EXCELLENCE, effort and progress. This involved writing short, personal messages of POSITIVITY to elderly members of our alumnae community, to be included in a Christmas card from the school.

We felt that it was so important to do this, especially as many members of our community had spent a lot of time during the year having to isolate. We would like to make this an annual initiative to spread kindness with a personal message to our fantastic community. We know that the girls enjoyed writing them as much as the recipients enjoyed receiving them.

And some of our alumnae recipients responded:

Dear Nancy, aged 11

Thank you for your Christmas card. It was so kind of you to write and very interesting to hear how things are going at school.

I hope you will have a lovely Christmas holiday.

NGHS alumna 1958

Dear Sir/Madam

Yesterday I was delighted to receive a card from one of your Year 4 pupils, and I would very much like to acknowledge it, if that is permitted. Her card was received with great joy.

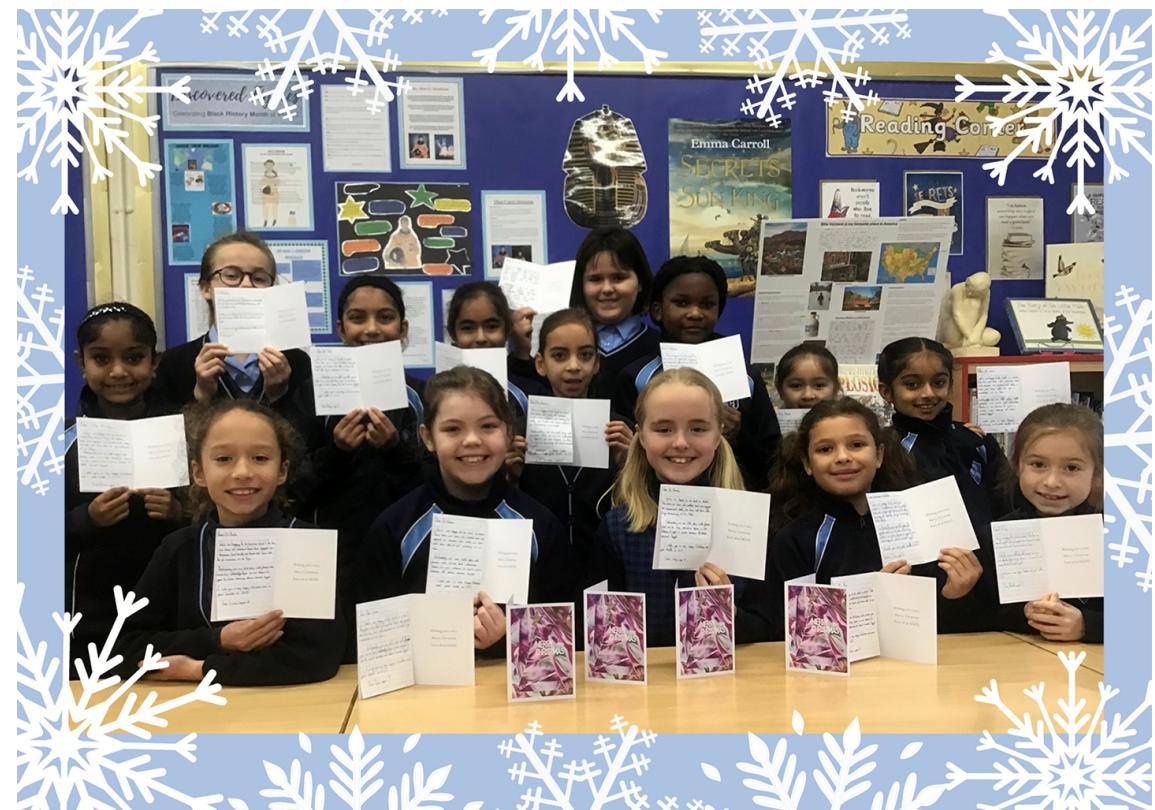
NGHS alumna 1958

Dear Sir/ Madam

Please could you pass on our thanks to Bluebelle (Year 4) for the lovely Christmas card she sent to my Mother. It was a very informative and well written letter to accompany the card, and please congratulate Bluebelle on her excellent hand-writing!

Happy Christmas to you all.

Son of alumna 1957



## NGHS ALUMNAE ADALINE AND EKBAL LAUNCH LOUNGEWEAR RANGE

Amid the chaos and challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, two of our 2019 alumnae were not only busy with their university studies, but also with the launch of a business venture together. Adaline Opare Anim is studying Medicine at Sheffield, and friend Ekbal Sabil is studying Law with a Foundation Year at Birmingham. This makes their achievement even more remarkable. We were delighted that both of them agreed to take part in our Year 9 Business Enterprise Day too, encouraging a new generation of entrepreneurs.

Adaline tells us a bit more about herself and the business in her own words:

"I joined NGHS at Year 7 in 2012 and left in 2019 after my A Levels. I studied Biology, Chemistry and French at A Level, plus Geography in Year 12. I also took an EPQ for which I received an A\* (full marks).

I was Deputy Head Girl at the school and was heavily involved with the NCYW (National Council of Young Women) and attended conferences with some other NGHS students



at the time. I ran the Charity Committee at school and did a lot of bake sales and fund-raisers as a student ambassador for the Eve Appeal, Oxfam and Nottingham Hospitals Charity. I also helped to organise and run the annual Senior Citizens Christmas Party with Dr Henshaw and organised a Junior School disco for charity. As well as all of the charity work in which I was involved, I also enjoyed taking part in D of E and being part of the Young Enterprise campaign.

Presently, (February 2021) I am a second year medical student at The University of Sheffield, which is absolutely amazing. I love my course and the opportunities I've had to grow and learn here, and I cannot wait to see what the future holds for my medical career. I am currently the social secretary for Sheffield MedSoc too and am also about to start a volunteer placement as a Digital Fundraising Coordinator with B:Friend Sheffield which I am really looking forward to!

Another hugely exciting development for me since leaving NGHS is that I have just



launched a black-owned, female led clothing business with my fellow NGHS alumna, Ekbal Sabil. It's called REIGNSZN and we recently had the opportunity to speak to BBC Radio Sheffield all about it. We're passionate about being environmentally conscious and ensuring our customers can be involved in every step of the process. As women of colour, we are incredibly determined to ensure our brand is diverse and representative, so we are constantly looking for new ways to achieve this.

You can find us on instagram under [@REIGNSZNOFFICIAL](#). We will be launching our new sister loungewear collection soon!

## MEMORIES OF HRH THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH

On Friday 9 April 2021 we learned of the passing of His Royal Highness, Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh. This filled us with much sadness for reasons beyond the obvious. The success of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme at NGHS has been phenomenal over the years, inspiring countless numbers of girls to embrace adventure and the great outdoors. Taking part in the scheme changed many of their lives and continues to do so today.

Not only that, but it brought back memories of his visit to the school in 1978 when he came to lay the foundation stone of the school library which still bears his name. Girls lined the street and areas of the school to welcome him and cheer him on, waving their flags as Letty Lewenz proudly showed him around. We thought you might like to see some of the amazing photographs of this memorable day.



## INSPIRING ALUMNAE

### DIANA HOLMES LEGACY

09-07-1930 to 27-05-2017

Diana Holmes (nee Sherwin) studied at NGHS between 1938 and 1948 and was a successful and happy student. She was eternally grateful to her Great Aunt (who was also her Godmother) who paid her school fees. This gave her access to the best girls' education available and opportunities she may otherwise not have had. It is for this reason that Diana was adamant that her legacy should be used for NGHS bursaries - wanting to give similar opportunities to girls of today.

Leaving NGHS at 18 Diana studied Institutional Management. Training completed she worked for several years in this field, initially in colleges of education before managing a hotel in Scotland and a large private estate. However, feeling that this was not a career path that she would enjoy long term, she stepped sideways into journalism. Having been contributing to the Farmers Weekly as a freelance writer, in 1958 she became its Assistant Editor on the non-technical family pages - a job she loved. Based in London she was made Chairman (the youngest ever) of the Women's Press Club – a club that had been established in 1943 in response to the exclusion of women from the Press Club. In her capacity as Chair Diana led a delegation of 62 journalists to the USA with the objective of building relationships with the American press. Receptions were held for them at the White House with Jacky Kennedy, and at the United Nations with Eleanor Roosevelt, then at Congress and the British Embassy.

A couple of years later, tiring of London, Diana moved to Oxfordshire to combine freelance journalism with hotel public relations, spending her

limited free time learning to play golf. Agreeing to an old college friend's request for help with the publicity of the newly formed amateur Buscot Opera Group, Diana met the conductor, Francis, a chartered surveyor and professionally trained musician and widower with three children. Within six months Diana and Francis were married. Moving to north Wiltshire, Diana continued as a freelance writer but with more available free time taken to improve her golf.

Soon her golf handicap was a low single figure, and she was greatly in demand playing for her local club and county teams. Cirencester Golf Club Captaincy was followed by Gloucestershire County Captaincy and in 1980 Diana was invited by the English Ladies Golf Association to become one of their selectors. This was a four year job, selecting players for the various English teams for international matches. As Chairman of the Select Committee for three years she enjoyed this post immensely, travelling the country scouting for the best talent. Diana continued to play competitive county and club golf (where she was an A team player for 36 consecutive years) until she was 74, winning her last match with the last putt on the 18th green!

Beside her major interest of golf, Diana was a keen historian, and shortly after marrying wrote articles and a book on the local history of north Wiltshire. At this time she volunteered to work at the local branch of the Citizens Advice Bureau. Working at the Cirencester branch she became Organiser (now termed Manager), then moved on to the Management committee becoming Vice Chair, a post she held for more than a decade.



Maître d' by appearing for dinner suitably attired! Two years later they cycled France again, this time from east to west.

Diana often enjoyed telling the story of how the surname of her great-grandfather Mordecai Sherwin, the Nottinghamshire and England wicket keeper, and Frank Shacklock, the fast bowler were amalgamated by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, who was also a contemporary county cricketer. Apparently Conan Doyle frequently took names of friends and associates and merged them for characters in his novels – hence Sherwin and Shacklock became Sherlock. It seemed fitting therefore that on marrying, Diana became a 'Holmes'!

Diana was reacquainted with NGHS years later in 2011 when she attended the Creative Showcase which launched the idea of the hugely successful Performing Arts Centre. She was a highly intelligent, interesting and articulate lady, full of fun and adventure, with a great sense of humour. Diana was keen to get involved in the project and regularly attended board meetings and other school events. Sadly she later suffered two strokes and was unable to communicate as she had done, but it didn't stop her! She kept in touch and she continued going on cruises until her failing health (including Alzheimer's) meant she had to go into a home.

We're truly thankful to Diana who saw the value of a school bursary and made full use of it, and has enabled us through her legacy to do the same for other girls.

As a teenager Diana developed a love of maps and cycling and in the summer that she left school set off on a cycling holiday with two friends. The seeds of journalism were already apparent in the journal she kept of their expedition! These two passions were rekindled many decades later when at the age of 56 she and Francis, who by then was 74, cycled from the south to the north of France. Unsupported and travelling with only two small panniers each, they made their way along back roads following the route Diana had previously plotted on scraps cut from large scale maps; they would sometimes cover 60 miles in a day. Arriving dusty and tired at hotels, on seeing the extent of their luggage they were often given looks of disdain. A short while later after shaking out one of her silk dresses they would surprise the

## INSPIRING ALUMNAE

### PATRICE WELLESLEY-COLE

Patrice may only have attended NGHS for four years, but that was enough time for her education to have made an impact on her life and career. Her story is also unique in that she was the first and only black girl at the school during her time here. She went on to find success and recognition in the field of Law, and continues to champion women's rights and racial equality, as she tells us:

*"My time at NGHS was confined to four years of Junior School from the ages of 5 to 9, but it gave me a foundation for a solid career as it grounded me educationally and morally. It was in the late 1950s to early 60s, a different era, I learnt the three Rs and discipline was instilled in me by strict teachers. My parents, like others who sent their daughter to the leading school that NGHS is, saw it as an algorithm for success; good exam results, a Russell group university and rewarding career. I was a pioneer in many areas, bicultural and Afro Saxon, as the first black schoolgirl not only at NGHS, but also my other two schools - New Court Prep School in Cheltenham, then Marlborough Girls' College. My time at NGHS gave me the confidence to develop leadership and interpersonal skills from an early age. Two years later I became Class Captain at prep school, then Head of Sixth Form at MGC. The schooling at NGHS was the beginning of a journey ending with achieving 3 A Levels with A' grades and gaining a much coveted place at Oxford (St. Hugh's College) to read Law at a time when there were only five women's colleges at the university."*

*My memories of my time at NGHS include assembly, interacting with friends during break, and every weekend, the fun of children's birthday parties in different parts of Nottinghamshire. I enjoyed singing and remember singing 'I'm a stranger here'. Christmas was a special time and acting in the Nativity play was the highlight. I played the African King and my parents dressed me in typical West African attire for the part. It was indeed a privilege to attend Nottingham Girls' High school."*

After her graduation from St Hugh's Patrice was called to the Bar (Inner Temple) and returned to Freetown in Sierra Leone where she had lived for six months. There she practised Law for thirteen years from 1977. In 1990 she returned to England and took up various legal posts, eventually becoming a full-time judge in 2002 with jurisdiction covering immigration and asylum and deportation, human rights, bail, and EU cases. During these years she also immersed herself in voluntary work, becoming Secretary and then Coordinator of International Relations of the Sierra Leone Association of University Women. In 1989 Patrice was elected as Vice-President of the International Federation of University Women (IFUW) - she was both the youngest and the first elected African Vice-President.

After taking early retirement as a Tribunal Judge in 2017, Patrice served for three years as President and Director of the British Federation of Women Graduates (BFWG) and Director and Trustee of Funds for Women Graduates (FFWG) - one of the largest providers of post-graduate scholarships in the country. She remains today, an Honorary Graduate of St Hugh's College, Oxford.

As Patrice said herself, she was indeed a pioneer as the only black schoolgirl at all three of the schools she attended, and also the only black undergraduate at St Hugh's College during the early 1970s. Her success is a testament to her belief in herself, which is one of her pieces of advice to the current generation of NGHS girls, along with positivity and prayers, and working as hard as possible.

**"Intersectionality is about equality, empowerment, and diversity. Education is the key to empowerment and equality."**

PATRICE WELLESLEY-COLE,  
HUMAN RIGHTS LAWYER &  
FORMER LONDON TRIBUNAL JUDGE

## INSPIRING ALUMNAE

### HELEN WATSON

Alumna 1983 - 1991

Helen Watson is the God daughter of the late Peggy Mason after whom the Peggy Mason Bursary is named, and she was also Head Girl at NGHS in her final year. After NGHS, Helen studied Natural Sciences at St John's College, Cambridge, where, in addition to her studies, she continued to participate in many sports and won a University Blue in tennis and squash. Helen took a law conversion course and qualified as a solicitor at city law firm, Linklaters. She then worked in various legal roles in the technology sector including living and working in Asia for over 10 years. She moved back to the UK in 2017 and is now the Legal Director for Vodafone Business. Helen set up a STEM mentoring programme for Sixth Form girls at a school in Singapore. She is on the Executive Board of Vodafone Women in Business and leads a number of diversity initiatives within Vodafone.

Later in the year Helen will be connecting with recipients of the Peggy Mason Bursary to learn about the lives that have been changed by the generous donations of her Godmother.



Here, she tells us a bit about herself and her own time at NGHS:

**How do you believe your time as a GDST Girl at NGHS has helped you going forward?**

Mrs Bowering was the Headmistress when I was at NGHS. I remember her being firm but fair and very visible around the school – very modern in her outlook and, on reflection, a role model for many girls at the school. From the day I arrived in the school, I remember opportunities to extend and challenge myself – my lunchtimes and after school slots were full of sports and musical activities.

There were a number of teachers whom I remember being very supportive during my time at NGHS including Miss Peacock (Maths), Mrs Percival (English and Careers Advice). It was not just the core lessons, but the wider teaching which I think was so instrumental for me: debating skills, critical thinking, curiosity and empathy. I was encouraged to apply for Cambridge and given support and guidance in the process and even advice on the right college for my interests and personality.

I also absolutely loved the sporting opportunities at NGHS. I played a huge amount of hockey - we had a very good team in my year and reached the National Finals. I encourage my own children to play team sports - great opportunities for developing friendships and leadership skills. As I moved around the world with my career, I often made my best friends through local hockey and tennis teams.

After finishing University and Law School, I headed off for six months to South East Asia, and my eyes



were opened to the magic of Asia. A few years later, I moved to live and work in Asia - spending much of the time living in Singapore but working in locations including China, Hong Kong, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, India, Australia, Vanuatu and Diego Garcia! I don't think the 10 year old me who arrived at Arboretum Street could ever have imagined that my education and career could take me on that journey.

Now back in the UK and with my own children at school, I often find myself reflecting back on the amazing opportunities and experiences which I had through NGHS.

More importantly, I had a huge amount of fun and made many life-long friends at NGHS - I still have a framed photo of my Year 7 class in my lounge!

**What advice would you give to the next generation of NGHS girls?**

Don't worry if you are not sure what career you want to pursue - keep your options broad and study what you enjoy. Be curious - always look for opportunities which take you outside your comfort zone. Focus on the skills that you have, not on the gaps - you can fill those in as you go along. Most of all, have passion in what you do, confidence in who you are and persistence in what you want to achieve.

## CREATING EXTRAORDINARY FUTURES



*"NGHS is such a warm and welcoming place that allows you to grow into the best person you can be. I'm so grateful for the opportunity I've had to be able to study at NGHS, and the support that I've been given by staff has been incredible. I feel as though I have been equipped with the confidence to enter the adult world as a woman and be extraordinary!"*

Sixth Form Bursary Student

Those three short sentences written by a bursary student who completed her A Level studies this year say everything about the Nottingham Girls' High School experience.

Many years ago, not long after I became a fundraiser, a generous donor told me that the reason they chose to make education a priority for their philanthropy was because the gift of education, once made, can never be taken away. The words of that donor have stayed with me ever since. It's a sentiment that many kind, and generous NGHS alumnae share, and believe in too.

For nearly 150 years Nottingham Girls' High School has shone in its mission to provide a 'girls' first' education that is progressive, creative, and different. As a parent of a NGHS alumna I have seen at first hand the impact of that mission.

From day one, the principle that there has always been a place for girls to study at NGHS regardless of the financial circumstances of their families has been sacrosanct.

Since the beginning of 2020, the global crisis society has had to address has changed everything, and that ambition has never been more important, urgent, or challenging than it is today.

Recent studies have shown that the global pandemic and its consequences have widened the social mobility gap - and in the case of school age children, those from disadvantaged backgrounds are now further behind than ever before. It is so important now to ensure talented young girls are not prevented from achieving their full potential due to a lack of financial resources.

The Diana Holmes and Peggy Mason legacies are amazing examples of the generosity of two former students. Both of those gifts were made from the estates of the donors, which means that they arrived after it was too late for the school to be able to say thank you to them personally.

That's one of the reasons why we will be writing to a selection of NGHS alumnae soon, to ask them to consider leaving a bequest to the school in their will and to tell us about it. If we know about those intentions, we can make sure that we can express our gratitude in their lifetimes.

If this is something that you are considering please do let us know. We'd love to say thank you!

We know that there are more girls in Nottingham who can be tomorrow's leaders. And we know that the gift of education doesn't just shape their lives, and destiny: it shapes their families, communities, and the wider world into which they move. As we begin to emerge from the pandemic and as we look ahead, it is vitally important that a lack of financial resources does not prevent girls from achieving their potential.

That's why it is crucial for us to be able to expand and grow the number of bursaries we are able to offer, and to ensure that girls from all walks of life can benefit from having access to a NGHS education.

*"I feel so grateful to have had the opportunity to study at NGHS. It has been an experience I wouldn't have been able to get anywhere else. Most importantly, I feel empowered as a woman going into the world! NGHS has helped me to achieve great things and I'm so excited to see what the future holds!"*

Sixth Form Bursary Student

Later this year NGHS will also be participating in a campaign alongside 5 other GDST schools, when recent A Level leavers will be making contact with alumnae, to talk to them about the school, and to ask for their philanthropic support. If you happen to receive a call please spare a few minutes to talk to your caller and to listen to her message.

If the words of that donor I spoke to inspire you in the same way that they did to me, then please choose to make NGHS a priority for your philanthropic support. Every gift we receive makes a difference.

Thank you.

Tim Cobb

Fundraising Manager  
(maternity leave)

Contact details:  
+44(0)115 935 4410  
[Friendsfnghs@not.gdst.net](mailto:Friendsfnghs@not.gdst.net)



## FORMER STAFF OBITUARIES

It's always very sad to bring news of those we have lost from our school community but we know that you will share in our condolences to their friends and families, and join us in our appreciation and gratitude for their commitment to the school during their roles here.

### Mrs Barbara Burnham (née Snelling)

We were saddened to hear in February 2021 of the passing of former staff member Mrs Barbara Burnham (née Snelling) who taught at the school between 1961 and 1974. Barbara sadly passed away on Tuesday 16 February 2021 aged 86.

Mrs Burnham taught French in the Modern Languages Department and was, during her career at the school, initially Third Mistress and then Second Mistress. She was much appreciated as a form mistress who was approachable, gentle, warm hearted, good fun and never cross! Those in her Sixth Form Tutor Group admired and loved her and she guided them patiently and kindly towards their university courses. She was an outstanding Second Mistress (Deputy Head) and indeed, Acting Head for a term, and is remembered for her kindness and welcome to new members of staff, encouraging and supporting them beyond what could be expected. Anyone with problems or concerns was met with her undivided attention.

She was an inspiring and challenging French teacher. Taking groups to France was not without its moments. On one occasion in Paris in 1964 Barbara was asked if she'd like a second helping and replied "non merci, je suis plein", at which the French hosts erupted with laughter. Apparently that was a rather coarse way of saying "I'm pregnant"! The girls considered that the most useful phrase to avoid that they'd learnt that week!



Barbara was born in Lincolnshire and lived there with her parents, adopted brother Michael Eric, and brother David until the family moved to Norfolk and she was enrolled at Terrington-St-Clement Primary School. Barbara was a bright child and in spite of missing so much early schooling due to illness, she thrived. An avid reader, by the age of 11 she had read every one of the books by Charles Dickens. This possibly was the breeding ground for her love of making up "special" words such as "unbeponquous" for "wonderful". She also possessed a beautiful voice and was always singing; a happy sound trilling throughout the house.

Barbara later attended King's Lynn High School for Girls at which she was awarded a State Scholarship, a prestigious first for the school. She chose to study at Bedford College, London where she joined the Choral Society and enjoyed all the musical opportunities and concerts performed there.

After graduation Barbara began her career teaching Modern Languages at Wisbech High School for Girls. Once again strong friendships emerged, especially among the members of the Fenland Singers, three times winner of the BBC's "Let The People Sing" competition. After this, she took up her position

here at NGHS where she inspired many, many girls to whom she was more than just a teacher. We will always be grateful for her commitment to the school and to girls' education.

Barbara's husband, Patrick has arranged a musical concert in her memory which is to take place at the Performing Arts Centre here at the school on Saturday 30 April 2022. Some of her former pupils will be performing and all former pupils and staff are welcome to attend. There will be no tickets as such but booking will be required and will be open from January 2022 on the [Squire Performing Arts Centre](http://SquirePerformingArtsCentre) website 'What's On' page at [squirepac.co.uk/whats-on/](http://squirepac.co.uk/whats-on/). Please do keep visiting the page if you'd like to book seats for this event, and if you have any questions in the meantime you can contact Alex Moxon at the box office on 0115 935 4473. We do hope many of you will be able to attend.

### Mrs Marlene Cassidy

It was with incredible sadness that we received news that Mrs Marlene Cassidy, our former Senior School colleague, passed away in April after coping positively and courageously with breast cancer for more than 15 years.

Marlene joined the school in 1984 as a teacher of Geography and A Level Geology. Her students



will remember her enthusiasm for the subjects she taught, inspiring many of them to continue studying Geography at university. Later she taught A Level Environmental Science; she was a committed environmentalist,

always leading by example, encouraging all of her students to care for the environment. She was a driving force in developing the associated policies in school.

As Head of Sixth Form, Marlene was innovative and inspirational. Students turned to her for kind and caring advice and she was held in huge affection by all of them. She was unfailingly supportive and encouraging and she delighted in the achievements of every student. On A Level results day Marlene was a calm presence and gave practical and sensible guidance to students and parents alike.

Her Yorkshire common sense and wisdom was valued by everyone who had the privilege of knowing her.

Marlene had a great sense of fun and supported and enjoyed every

aspect of Sixth Form life, from Sixth Form balls to the annual Sixth Form entertainment during which she was frequently and affectionately depicted handing out sheets of "paaper". She was a brilliant, lovely colleague and friend to all the staff who worked with her and will be very much missed by all those who knew her.

We are very grateful for the time and energy Marlene dedicated to the school and we send our love and condolences to her family and friends.

Marlene's colleague and former teacher, Maggie Crittenden, set up a crowdfunding campaign to create and establish a meadow in Marlene's memory at The Hook nature reserve in Lady Bay, West Bridgford. This was one of Marlene's very favourite places and she was passionate about nature and wildlife, so this was the absolute best tribute possible for her. Responses have been many and generous at the link below:  
[www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/marlenesmeadow](http://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/marlenesmeadow)

### Mrs Elizabeth Faulks

We received some sad news in January 2021 from the daughter of a former Junior School teacher, Mrs Elizabeth Faulks, who sadly passed away at the age of 87 earlier that month. Mrs Faulks taught at the Junior School from 1972 to 1993. Her daughter, Rebecca, attended the



Kindergarten from 1966 which is when Elizabeth first became acquainted with the school. She started teaching part-time in 'Lower Prep' as it was then known, and soon became full-time, guiding the girls in Form 1 during her last few years at the school. She was an extremely dedicated teacher with the younger pupils, especially those with particular learning difficulties.

By all accounts, Mrs Faulks expected and achieved high standards from her girls, much as we do today. She dedicated her time and energy to the school and was a keen musician and photographer who loved wildlife. She also had a sense of fun and was reported to have enjoyed wading through mud on field trips, much to the enjoyment of the girls.

Elizabeth was married to Ray by whom she is survived along with her children Richard and Rebecca. Some years ago she and Ray moved into a modern complex which Ray now shares

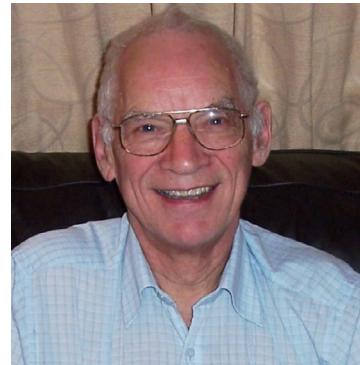
with Richard and his family. As a family the Faulkes adored dogs. They kept one of a recent litter of puppies which Ray now shares with Richard's family. Liz and Ray were enthusiastic and regular members of a group organised by former staff member, Bunty Cardwell, every year to see two Shakespeare plays at the Tolethorpe Theatre at Stamford.

Liz will be remembered warmly by all those who knew her.



## Mr Cal O'Callaghan

Mr O'Callaghan, a technician at NGHS during the 1990s, also sadly passed away in April 2021. Cal was consistently friendly and positive and treated everyone he met with the same cheerfulness. The technical expertise Cal had acquired and practised at Central TV studios was invaluable to a variety of departments. The sound and lighting systems in the Drama Studio held no fears for him. As he balanced precariously on the lighting tower to fix the



precise angle of a spotlight there was much laughter but also true professionalism. Cal also gave technical support to the Modern Languages Department. He was always reliable and accommodating and willing to solve any problems connected with televisions, the recording of programmes, tape recorders, broken cassettes and video tapes - sometimes at short notice. It was a great day for NGHS when Cal joined the staff.

## Lynette Mary Shaw

Lynette was a former Admissions Secretary at NGHS before retiring in 2004. She was by all accounts a pleasure to work with. A quiet, private person who was ideally suited to her role in Admissions and Finance where efficiency and tact were required. She had a perceptive and analytical mind and a firm grasp of method and process. She also had quiet authority, great personal integrity and a droll sense of humour.

Lynette was also very conscientious and utterly reliable and always showed a genuine interest in the girls who had gone through the admissions process and was pleased to hear how they developed throughout their school life.

She was a GDST alumna herself and also worked for the GPDST (as it was then known) for over 30 years before she married and moved to Nottingham.

Clearly Lynette was a GDST girl through and through and retained friendships with colleagues after her retirement. We were deeply shocked and saddened to hear of her tragic passing in November 2020.

## Mrs Margery Tranter

Margery passed away peacefully on Friday 13 August 2021 at the age of 98 after a short illness. She had taught Geography and RI at NGHS from about 1959 until her retirement in 1983.

Margery was always very positive about her time at the school, with the lively exchanges between staff and students and in the staffroom. She established lots of warm and lasting friendships with members of staff, many of whom had remained in touch over many years. Margery particularly remembered the Geography field expeditions and found them productive and enjoyable. She was a valued member of staff, a good teacher and inspiring

colleague, especially among the geographers. Her former pupils admired her knowledge, her way of asking questions and her quiet control of the classroom. She had a mischievous sense of humour but was a very sympathetic adviser at difficult times. She was a kind and gentle lady with a caring attitude towards her classes. In return they respected her and she had no problems with discipline!

The purpose built Geography Room in the Milford building came into operation during the time Margery taught here. Beautifully fitted with space for maps, rocks and equipment as well as books. A further additional classroom and stock-room provided the space to store and share teaching aids, worksheets etc but also for staff to exchange ideas and help each other. Field trips and residential courses, including Holland in 1981, helped the Geographers to bond and they became a mutually supportive group, with Margery as their éminence grise.

Margery was born in London and lived at her family's bookshop until she went to Bedford College, University of London, to read Geography. As it was wartime the college relocated to Cambridge, and in her final year she had to commit to teacher training, but she discovered she enjoyed this. She also met and married

John, a clergyman, so moved to Derbyshire at his parish in Bolsover, then later to Denby.

In her fifties Margery took a year out to do an MA in English Local History at Leicester University and went on to become an Honorary Research Associate at the then Department for English Local History there. She researched and published in a variety of areas and periods, and applied her Geography training to local history research to good effect. Later she founded and ran the Local History Society in the village of Weston-on-Trent in Derbyshire where she was living, working with others to raise and nurture interest in local history through booklets and exhibitions. In 2005 she received an award for personal achievement from the British Association for Local History.

We have been informed by her son and daughter that Margery would also want to say that she was very grateful for all the positive experiences she had at the school and for the later support from friends from Nottingham.

Margery's funeral took place at St. Andrew's Church at Caunton on Monday 6 September. Her husband, who pre-deceased her, was the vicar at Caunton (Notts) and she is survived by her son David. She will be remembered warmly by all who knew her.

## ALUMNAE OBITUARIES

### Katherine (Kate) Perry née McMurchy

1948 to 2020

NGHS alumna 1960 to 1966

Written by Jane Bartrop (sister)

Kate came to NGHS in Lower IV, having moved down from Scotland. She was Deputy Head Girl. After school she went to the Froebel Institute in Roehampton to train as a primary school teacher. In 1969 she married John Perry and joined him in Wales while he completed his degree in medicine. The family settled in Cambridge where John became a GP. Kate gave up her teaching to look after her two sons, James and Edward.

In 1983 Kate began working in the library at Girton College. In 1986 she became the college's first archivist and was instrumental in bringing together and organising from scratch the archive of Girton College, a collection of national importance in terms of Girton's unique place in the history of women's higher education. Her dedicated professionalism in so doing was the foundation on which the college was later able to make the case for an ambitious new building to house the archive and special collections. She also raised the profile and reputation

of the archive to international levels and always went above and beyond in her expert assistance to researchers, as myriad citations and acknowledgements testify.

Amongst her many achievements Kate initiated the Girton Oral History Project, which collected first-hand accounts from Girton alumnae, not only of their experiences at the College, but also of their lives, careers and aspirations.

Widely respected among Cambridge University archivists, Kate played a key role in the development of the first union cataloguing tool for Cambridge archives, CANTAB. This later developed into the on-line archival resource of JANUS that is used today.

Girton recognised Kate's contribution to the College by electing her to a Bye-Fellowship in 1997. When she retired in 2009 she was given the richly-deserved title of Archivist Emerita.



In recognition of her contribution to the college, but also as an indication of how greatly she was loved and admired by so many there, Girton's flag was flown at half mast when her death was announced.

At 5'2" Kate was small but very tough! She was diagnosed with advanced ovarian cancer in 2010, just after she retired, but was determined to live as full a life as she could, while supporting her husband who also had cancer and died in 2017. Her family and many friends treasured her generous nature, her rich practical and emotional support and her ever present smile.

### Marian Gopinath (née Wells)

1942 - 2020

NGHS alumna 1957

Written by Charlotte Gopinath (daughter)

Marian Gopinath, née Wells, was blessed with determination, a keen sense of humour, and an adventurous spirit. She was born in Nottingham, England, and attended Nottingham Girls' High School. She studied French and English Literature at the University of Sheffield. There, she met her beloved husband, Anand, and they married in 1966. Subsequently, they lived in Bangor, Wales, for twelve years before moving to Boston, Massachusetts in 1978 with their first daughter, Juliet. Their second daughter, Charlotte, was born in Boston. In 1986, they moved to Orono, Minnesota. Marian succumbed to COVID-19 after a long battle with Parkinson's on Tuesday, June 2, 2020. She will be missed dearly.

Marian was an avid violinist and patron of the arts. She played violin in the Roseville String Ensemble, Northeast Orchestra of Fridley, and the Minnetonka Civic Orchestra. She studied violin and piano at the MacPhail Center for the Arts, and passed



on her love of music to her entire family.

Marian was keenly interested in literature and collected many books. She introduced her children to Shakespeare and enjoyed attending Shakespeare in the Park and the Guthrie Theater. Marian also studied French, Spanish, Italian, and taught herself Hindi. Marian relished wearing home-made skirts in teal, magenta and lavender batik prints. She also found time to

knit mohair sweaters during her children's musical activities.

As a young woman, Marian travelled throughout Europe and hitchhiked across France. In 2004, she took a month-long trip to India with Anand and Juliet. She marveled at the architecture and jewelry, and fell in love with the brilliant colors, clothing and printing styles. She was determined to buy traditional wooden printing blocks, which involved visiting a block printing factory in Jaipur, another store to find the source of the blocks, and an expedition to a village, complete with an escort of goats and children.

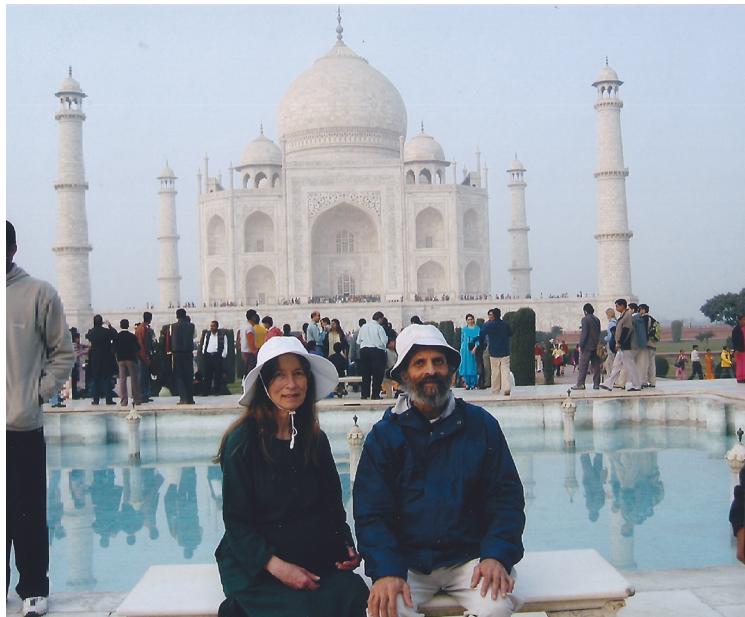
In Minnesota, Marian's garden is filled with the graceful trees that she and Anand planted every Labor Day weekend. Her favourites were the Catalpa, Buckeye, Horse Chestnut, and Kentucky Coffeetree. Each summer, she and Anand packed up the car and the children, and embarked on a camping trip. Marian loved the windswept mountains of Colorado, especially

Mt. Chapin, Mt. Chiquita and Ypsilon Mountain in Rocky Mountain National Park. She knew her bird songs and how to identify plants, and treasured camping in her little blue tent. Most of all, she loved the seaside. Walking along the beach and collecting shells, or sitting in the shade under the umbrella while Juliet and Charlotte built sand castles and collected hermit crabs, or swimming in the ocean at Demerest Lloyd and Crane Beach in Massachusetts were some of her dearest memories.

She was preceded by her parents, Bernard and Phyllis Wells (née Featherstone) of Nottingham, England. She is survived by her husband, Anand Gopinath, her children, Juliet and Charlotte, their spouses, Brian Lay and Paul Tillberg and her four grandchildren, Payal, Evan, Anjali and Kalyani. A private memorial was held via Zoom, and a tree was planted in Marian's garden in her honour.

Memorials may be sent to the Marian Gopinath Scholarship at the MacPhail Center for Music.

[macphail.org](http://macphail.org)



## DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

Diversity and Inclusion continues to be a priority for our school, and for the whole of the GDST network. We are committed to continue listening, learning and making real change within our school, so that every pupil feels that they belong, no matter their background.

Following the important work carried out last academic year, which saw the launch of the Undivided Programme across the GDST, there have been some positive additions to our way of working here at NGHS.

### UNDIVIDED

THE GDST IS COMMITTED TO DIVERSITY, INCLUSION, AND REAL CHANGE

Our Marketing Director, Claire Bale, has taken on the role of Trust Consultant in addition to her NGHS Marketing responsibilities to support the GDST network in their Diversity and Inclusion strategies. She is working with Diversity and Inclusion leads across the network to help us all learn and progress together.

We have also welcomed new members of our governing body from diverse backgrounds, including a Diversity and Inclusion specialist and an alumna who runs a networking group for women of colour. We are delighted to

have the support of our governing body across all areas of school life and have already benefited from the members' expertise in many different areas.

Staff training continues. All members of staff have completed training in unconscious bias, and many have also taken part in a variety of training programmes including Diversification of the Curriculum, Understanding Neuro Diversity and Foundations for an Inclusive Culture.



Diversification of the Curriculum is also key to our strategy. The launch of our Diversity Calendar this year has helped to support teachers by providing monthly themes with which the whole school can engage. This includes topics such as Faith and Belief, Black History, LGBT+ Pride and skills such as empathy, kindness and allyship.



We are also delighted to have recently introduced the Halo Code, a pledge to ensure that no member of their community faces barriers, discrimination or judgments because of their Afro-textured hair, and to celebrate all hair types generally.

Across the GDST, alumnae are participating in a new mentoring scheme, GEM (GDST Empowerment Network). It is designed to connect women of colour through a professional networking and mentoring scheme. We are grateful to all of our alumnae supporting the scheme, and if anyone would like to be involved, please do get in touch.

## GETTING INVOLVED

### Events

It's been a long time since we were able to hold events at the school due to the COVID-19 pandemic and all of the restrictions. We've missed having guests and we're sure some of you would love to come back for a look around and a catch up over a delicious NGHS lunch. We have put a date in the diary for a reunion lunch on Saturday 18th June 2022. Also keep an eye on the school website alumnae pages and social media for news of any other events.

### Glitter Ball

One event which WILL go ahead is our Glitter Ball on Saturday 26 March 2022. Plans are already under way for this glitzy event which will bring together members of the NGHS community in order to raise awareness and funds for our bursaries while enjoying a fabulous night out. There will be food and music and fun, an auction and raffle and just a wonderful time to be had. You're all more than welcome so keep your eyes peeled for more information.

[Click here to book tickets.](#)



NOTTINGHAM  
GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL

**Save the Date**

*Glitter Ball*

**Saturday 26 March 2022**

at De Vere East Midlands Conference Centre



NOTTINGHAM  
GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL

G D S T

*Save the date!*

**NGHS SPRING ALUMNAE REUNION  
SATURDAY 18 JUNE 2022**

Special invitation on this particular occasion is extended to those of you who left school in years ending in **1 or 6!**

For further details, contact [FriendsofNGHS@not.gdst.net](mailto:FriendsofNGHS@not.gdst.net)  
or call **0115 941 7663**

## Careers Talks

We've had some really interesting and inspiring Careers talks by some of our NGHS alumnae over the years. It's one of the most popular elements of our Careers provision as our current girls really do benefit from hearing how former pupils have successfully climbed the ladder in all manner of careers. There's nothing quite like hearing these details first hand, and if this is something you feel you could help us with we'd be delighted to hear from you. You may like to come into school to do a talk, or it could be done online where distance is no object, either way it would be really helpful to our current pupils. If you'd like to get involved then please do just drop us an email to [FriendsofNGHS@not.gdst.net](mailto:FriendsofNGHS@not.gdst.net) and we'll get back in touch.



## Memories and Archives

As you'll have seen throughout this issue and previous editions of Connect, a picture says a thousand words and invokes memories of times gone by. We value our archives and are extremely grateful for anything we have been sent which we can include in them, but we're always on the lookout for more. If you have any photographs from your time at the school or any events connected with NGHS, we'd love to see them and share them with the school community. You don't have to part with any treasured pictures, you can just take a photograph and send by email to [FriendsofNGHS@not.gdst.net](mailto:FriendsofNGHS@not.gdst.net) with any relevant dates and descriptions. Or if you're happy to pop anything in the post, we'll gladly receive it. Our alumnae like nothing more than a trip down memory lane.

## GDST Life

If you've not already signed up to GDST Life, it's a wonderful online network - from the perspective of the family of 25 GDST schools collaborating and sharing expertise to help girls learn without limits, or from life after school, as an alumna.

The GDST has an alumnae network of more than 70,000 women - one of the largest of its kind anywhere in the world. That's 70,000 women, from all walks of life and around the globe, who are there to support and inspire each other.

It's there for students from the moment they go into Sixth Form, giving them the opportunity to connect with others across the GDST family of schools. And for alumnae, it opens the door to a host of new networking opportunities, unrivalled personal and professional connections, mentoring support, events, news and resources, groups and societies, and much, much more - for life. You can sign up now by visiting: [gdstlife.aluminate.net](http://gdstlife.aluminate.net)

**GDST**  
**LIFE**  
STAY PART OF IT

## Her future. Your gift.



Contact us to find out more about how you can help girls from all walks of life to learn without limits.

[www.gdst.net/support/support-us](http://www.gdst.net/support/support-us)

**GDST**  
GIRLS' DAY SCHOOL TRUST

Registered with  
**FUNDRAISING  
REGULATOR**

**Progressive. Creative. Different.**



**EXCELLENT IN ALL AREAS  
2020**



**NOTTINGHAM  
GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL**

---

**G D S T**  
GIRLS' DAY SCHOOL TRUST

Nottingham Girls' High School  
9 Arboretum Street, Nottingham NG1 4JB  
0115 941 7663 [enquiries@not.gdst.net](mailto:enquiries@not.gdst.net)

[nottinghamgirlshigh.gdst.net](http://nottinghamgirlshigh.gdst.net)



[FriendsofNGHS  
@NottmGirlsHigh](#)